

Ser. No. 10/728,318 (Conf. No: 9374) (Barry G. Lawrence)
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Amendment dated June 27, 2005
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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the application, without prejudice, in accordance with the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions of claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A device as in Claim 1, further comprising~~ A locking device, comprising:
 - a keeper defining an internal cavity;
 - a housing defining an interior and an exterior, said housing constructed to form a keeper recess to fit enclosably over at least part of said keeper;
 - a cam rotatively positioned within said housing; and
 - a washer positioned between said cam and said interior of said housing;
 - wherein said keeper selectively engages the keeper recess within said housing; and
 - wherein said cam selectively engages said keeper within the internal cavity of said keeper.
3. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said interior further defines an inset for accommodating and substantially compressing said washer.

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4. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer is substantially round.

5. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer is resilient to vertical and horizontal compression.

6. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer includes a vertical tensioning member that provides a tensioning force in a vertical direction.

7. (Original) A device as in Claim 6, wherein said vertical tensioning member comprises a raised portion that resists vertical compression.

8. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer includes a lateral tensioning member that provides a tensioning force in a horizontal direction.

9. (Original) A device as in Claim 8, wherein said lateral tensioning member comprises a lug extending beyond the diameter of said washer, said lug constructed to resist horizontal compression.

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10. (Original) A device as in Claim 9, wherein said interior defines an inset for said washer, said inset defining a notch for correspondingly receiving said lug, the notch positioned to relieve horizontal compression acting on said washer.

11. (Original) A device as in Claim 10, wherein said lug engages said notch to produce an audible indication thereof.

12. (Currently amended) A device as in Claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein said housing further comprises integral supports in said housing interior, said supports enhancing structural integrity.

13. (Currently amended) A window locking mechanism, comprising:

a keeper defining an internal cavity;

a housing constructed to form a keeper recess to fit enclosably over at least part of said keeper; and

engagement means for said keeper to engage the keeper recess such that ~~at least part~~ more than about 50 percent of the surface area of said keeper engages the keeper recess within said housing.

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14. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said keeper includes a raised portion for engaging the keeper recess.

15. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said engagement means comprises a solid cam rotatively positioned within said housing, said cam engaging the keeper cavity and urging said keeper to engage the keeper recess within said housing.

16. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said engagement means comprises a slotted cam rotatively positioned within said housing that urges said keeper to engage the keeper recess within said housing.

17. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said engagement means comprises a wedge that urges said keeper to engage the keeper recess within said housing.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A window locking mechanism as in Claim ~~18~~ 13, wherein said engagement means urges said keeper to engage said keeper recess such that about all of the surface area of said keeper engages said keeper recess.

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20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A window unit having a locking mechanism, said locking mechanism comprising:

a keeper defining an internal cavity;

a housing constructed to form a keeper recess to fit enclosably over at least part of said keeper, said housing defining a first tier-recess combination and a second tier-recess combination;

a cam rotatively positioned within said first tier-recess combination; and

a washer positioned between said housing and said cam,

wherein said second tier-recess combination extends along at least a portion of said housing,

wherein said keeper is nestable within the second tier-recess combination.

23. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, said locking mechanism comprising a metal material.

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24. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, said locking mechanism comprising a plastic material.

25. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said cam is substantially D-shaped.

26. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said locking mechanism includes a handle mounted through said first tier-recess combination to rotate said cam.

27. (Currently amended) A device window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 26, wherein said handle includes a graduated shaft, said graduated shaft having a top portion and a bottom portion, said bottom portion defining an opening for receiving a connector.

28. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 27, said cam including a graduated aperture for receiving said graduated shaft.

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29. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said housing is mounted to a window sash or a window frame.

30. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said keeper is mounted to a window sash or a window frame.

31. (New) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said keeper includes a raised portion for engaging the keeper recess.

32. (New) A device as in Claim 2, further comprising a handle mounted through said housing to rotate said cam.

33. (New) A device as in Claim 32, wherein said handle includes a graduated shaft, said graduated shaft having a top portion and a bottom portion, said bottom portion defining an opening for receiving a connector.

34. (New) A device as in Claim 33, said cam including a graduated aperture for receiving said graduated shaft.